

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSY-02 OMB-01
XMB-02 CEA-01 ACDA-12 /125 W
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R 281900Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8172
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08038

USEEC

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GW, JA
SUBJECT: FRG-JAPANESE RELATIONS: SCHEEL AND GENSCHER
VISIT TO JAPAN

REFS: (A) TOKYO 7554; (B) BONN 4974 (NOTAL);
(C) BONN 7351 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION CAME AWAY FROM THEIR
JAPAN VISIT WITH A FEELING THAT THEY HAD HAD GOOD
TALKS WITH A CLOSE FRIEND. BEYOND ATMOSPHERICS,
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HOWEVER, THERE WAS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE ACCOMPLISHED.
PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSION FROM THE GERMAN
POINT OF VIEW WAS THAT THE JAPANESE EXHIBITED A STRONG
SENSE OF SELF-RELIANCE BORDERING ON A "GO IT ALONE"
ATTITUDE. END SUMMARY.

1. OUR BRIEFINGS FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE (DIRECTOR

FOR EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS WEGNER--PROTECT--AND OTHERS)
PARALLELED AMEMBASSY TOKYO'S REPORT (REF A) QUITE
CLOSELY. THE FOLLOWING IS INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT THAT
REPORT.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, PRESIDENT SCHEEL
DEFINITELY TOOK THE LEAD IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
JAPANESE. ALTHOUGH HIS FUNCTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE
FRG IS LARGELY CEREMONIAL, SCHEEL, HIMSELF A FORMER
FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS GIVEN CLEARANCE BY CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT TO CARRY OUT A MEANINGFUL AND SUCCESSFUL
DIALOGUE WITH THE JAPANESE. SCHEEL MADE IT CLEAR TO
THE OTHER SIDE THAT HE WAS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY FOR
THE FRG AND WE ARE TOLD THE JAPANESE ACCEPTED THIS
QUITE EASILY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER KEPT LARGELY TO HIS OWN
PROGRAM; HE MET THREE TIMES ALONE WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN
MINISTER SONODA. GERMAN PRESS ACCOMPANYING THE
DELEGATION REPORTED THAT GENSCHER WAS ANNOYED AT
BEING UPSTAGED BY SCHEEL, ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE
NATURALLY DENIED THIS. WE ARE TOLD THAT SCHEEL HAD NO
SUCH INTENT AND, IN FACT, MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO HAVE
GENSCHER INCLUDED IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE
EMPEROR AND FUKUDA. NEVERTHELESS, GENSCHER DID NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS WITH THE EMPEROR FOR
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PROTOCOL REASONS AND FUKUDA PREFERRED SPEAKING WITH
SCHEEL ALONE SINCE A SEPARATE MEETING WITH GENSCHER
WAS ALREADY ON THE SCHEDULE.

4. THROUGHOUT THEIR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH
THE JAPANESE, THE GERMAN DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED
TIME AND TIME AGAIN WITH THE STRONG PRO-GERMAN
ATTITUDES ENCOUNTERED. OUR CONTACTS NOTE THAT
THE EMPEROR HIMSELF HAS A STRONG AFFINITY FOR GERMANY
AND THE EMPEROR'S INFLUENCE, ALTHOUGH NOT FORMALIZED,
WAS OBVIOUS IN THIS REGARD. FUKUDA WAS ALSO SEEN AS
BEING MOST SYMPATHETIC AND TALKS WITH HIM WERE
REMARKABLY RELAXED. THIS PERSONAL GOODWILL, ACCORDING
TO WEGNER, FACILITATED VERY OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS
WHICH WERE CONDUCTED WITH SURPRISING CANDOR FROM BOTH
SIDES.

5. OUR CONTACTS EMPHASIZED THAT A MUTUAL AND HIGH REGARD
FOR THE US AND THE US ROLE IN THE WORLD WAS EVIDENT
THROUGHOUT THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. BOTH SIDES
CAME DOWN STRONGLY ON THE PROPOSITION THAT PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE US WAS THE NECESSARY FOUNDATION OF WORLD

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

6. THE MAJOR THEME OF ALL OF THE TALKS WAS, NATURALLY,
THE STATE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. SCHEEL'S LEITMOTIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08038

USEEC

WAS THE COMMON RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL
COUNTRIES FOR RESTORING WORLD ECONOMIC HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS SPENT, HOWEVER, ON
DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC
SUMMIT IN BONN. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ON
THE DETAILS OF PARTICULAR AGENDA ITEMS, OUR CONTACTS
SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT MONETARY PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS
ABOUT GROWING PROTECTIONISM WERE UPPERMOST IN THE
MINDS OF BOTH THE JAPANESE AND THE GERMANS. WE ARE
TOLD THAT FUKUDA PAINTED A PARTICULARLY GLOOMY PICTURE
OF THE DANGERS POSED BY PROTECTIONISM.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS THE JAPANESE OFFERED
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SCHEEL A PREVIEW OF THEIR PROPOSED ECONOMIC REFORMS
SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE PUBLICLY RELEASED.
IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROSPECTS FOR JAPAN'S ECONOMY,
THE JAPANESE SEEMED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD
MEET THEIR GOAL OF A 7 PERCENT GROWTH RATE AND
REDUCE THEIR TRADE SURPLUS BY LATE SUMMER OR EARLY
AUTUMN. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG REMAINS SKEPTICAL.

8. THE JAPANESE TOLD SCHEEL AND GENSCHER THAT THEY
WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE A HIGH US PROFILE IN ASIA.
FUKUDA NOTED THAT HE FOUND THE US PLAN TO COMPENSATE
FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM KOREA BY SUPPLYING
ARMS AND MATERIEL TO BE QUITE A SATISFACTORY
ARRANGEMENT. THIS, FUKUDA NOTED, SEEMED TO OBIVIATE THE
NEED FOR THE JAPANESE TO REVISE THEIR OWN SECURITY
PLANNING. HE ADDED THAT HE WELCOMED THE APPARENT
SLOWDOWN OF THE US WITHDRAWAL AND WAS QUITE
ENTHUSIASTIC IN DESCRIBING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
US DECISION TO WITHDRAW AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF US-
JAPANESE COOPERATION.

9. THE JAPANESE, ON ALL LEVELS, IMPRESSED THE GERMANS
WITH THEIR STRONG SENSE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE. WHEREAS
IN PREVIOUS EXCHANGES THE JAPANESE HAD ALWAYS
REQUESTED GERMAN COOPERATION IN MEETING SOME
ELEMENT OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS--VIS-A-VIS THE
US, THE EC, ETC.--THEY HAD NO SUCH REQUESTS TO MAKE
THIS TIME. ON THE RETURN FLIGHT TO BONN, GENSCHER
CITED THIS AND OTHER IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM HIS
CONVERSATIONS IN ALLUDING TO WHAT HE FELT WAS A NEW
FEELING OF SELF-RELIANCE UNDERLYING THE JAPANESE
ATTITUDES. THE DELEGATION SHARED GENSCHER'S VIEW
THAT THE JAPANESE SEEMED SOMEHOW DISAPPOINTED AT THE
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WEST'S INABILITY TO ARRIVE AT EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS IN
THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. WE ARE TOLD THAT AT NO TIME DID
THE JAPANESE SUGGEST LIMITING THEIR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION, BUT THE GERMANS WERE LEFT WITH THE
IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE SOMEHOW RELYING LESS ON THE
BENEFITS OF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND WERE
PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE IF NECESSARY.

10. WHILE GENSCHER RETURNED DIRECTLY TO BONN FROM TOKYO ON APRIL 19, PRESIDENT SCHEEL CONTINUED ON TO TEHRAN ON APRIL 21 AFTER A TWO-HOUR STOPOVER IN SHANGHAI (REF C). AS PLANNED, THAT STOPOVER LASTED TWO HOURS AND CONSISTED ONLY OF A REFUELING STOP AND LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PENG CHUNG, ACTING MAYOR OF SHANGHAI. ONLY PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT, ALTHOUGH PENG CHUNG REPORTEDLY ALLUDED TO HIS ROLE AS POLITBURO MEMBER DURING A BRIEF DINNER SPEECH. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, THERE WERE NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE PLANE LEFT FOR TEHRAN ON SCHEDULE.
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